

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Currently, claims 2 and 4-12 are pending in this application.

**Allowable Subject Matter:**

Claims 4-10 and 12 are allowable.

**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103:**

Claims 1 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Nagai (U.S. '224) in view of Vora et al (U.S. '825, hereinafter "Vora"). Claims 2-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Nagai in view of Vora and further in view of Kaminski (U.S. '064). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections with respect to still pending claims 2 and 11.

In order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, all of the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art and there must be some suggestion or motivation either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings.

Applicant respectfully submits that the above-noted combinations of references fail to teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. For example, the combinations of cited references fail to teach or suggest a slot armor component comprising a plurality of profile co-extruded polymer layers so that the cross section of the slot armor component is non-uniform (e.g., a second leg portion being thicker than a first leg portion in claim 2, and a first polymer layer having a non-uniform thickness and a second polymer layer having a uniform thickness in claim 11).

With respect to claims 2 and 11, the Office Action alleges that it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time the invention was made to modify the size/shape of each polymer layer or leg portion of the armor so as to ensure fit of the slot armor or enhance performance of a slot armor. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this allegation. First, there is nothing in any of the cited references even remotely suggests the size or shape of the armor affecting the fit or performance of the slot armor, let alone modifying the size or shape in the manner as claimed. The non-uniform thickness of the slot armor having profile co-extruded layers presents a significant advance in the art. Prior to Applicant's invention, it was not possible to *profile* co-extrude layers to form a slot armor component. By performing a profile co-extrusion process to form a slot armor component, the process may form any given shape desired and defined by a die. Accordingly, the types of shapes available for the slot armor is greatly increased.

Nagai's teaching of extruding layers through a die, cooling them and drawing the film in biaxial directions suggests that this process involves sheets, that may be later bent, rather than a *profile* extruded process. Accordingly, the technology (prior to Applicant's invention) did not enable profile co-extrusion of a slot armor component having a variable thickness.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 2 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn.

**Conclusion:**

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions or believes

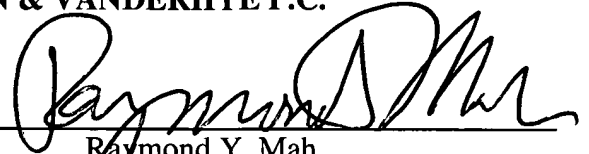
***IRWIN et al.***  
***Application No. 10/604,055***  
***September 15, 2005***

that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Raymond Y. Mah  
Reg. No. 41,426

RYM:sl  
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22203  
Telephone: (703) 816-4044  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100